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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-03

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 20231

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OGEN
SUBJECT: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. JOE PRESSEL WILL MEET JIM HENDERSON ON JANUARY 2
(PARA 3, STATE 312163).

2. AMERICAN EXPRESS PERSONNEL IN MOSCOW ARE EXPERIENCING SOVIET
RETALIATION FOR VISA RENEWAL DELAYS REPORTEDLY EXPERIENCED
BY INTOURIST PERSONNEL IN NEW YORK. FOR EXAMPLE, ROGER SCHMIDT,
HEAD OF AMERICAN EXPRESS OFFICE IN MOSCOW, COULD NOT OBTAIN RENEWAL
OF HIS SOVIET ENTRY/EXIT VISA WHICH EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, PRIOR
TO LEAVING USSR FOR SKIING HOLIDAY IN AUSTRIA. TO AVERT THE
POSSIBILITY OF HIS EXCLUSION, AMERICAN EXPRESS HQTRS HAD INSTRUCTED
ROGER TO RETURN TO MOSCOW BEFORE DECEMBER 31, DESPITE INTOURIST
ASSURANCES THAT VISA WOULD BE RENEWED IN VIENNA IN TIMELY FASHION.
CLIFF GROSS' ADVISE TO AMERICAN EXPRESS HERE WAS THAT SOVIET VISA
WOULD PROBABLY BE ISSUED IN VIENNA AS PROMISED, BUT COULD NOT, OF
COURSE, GIVE IRON-CLAD GUARANTEE. JOHN MARSCHALKO. AMERICAN
EXPRESS' TRAVEL MANAGER IN MOSCOW, APPLIED FOR RENEWAL OF HIS
SOVIET ENTRY/EXIT VISA, WHICH ALSO EXPIRES DECEMBER 31. AFTER
ABNORMAL DELAY, HE REQUESTED INTOURIST TO RETURN VISAED PASSPORT
IN TIME TO PERMIT HIM TO MAKE NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY TRIP TO BUDAPEST.
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INTOURIST THEREUPON RETURNED PASSPORT WITH VISA VALID TO JANUARY 10,
INSTEAD OF NORMAL ONE-YEAR PERIOD.

3. THESE APPEAR TO BE CLEAR SOVIET RETALIATIONS FOR VISA RENEWAL
DELAYS INTOURIST CLAIMS ITS PERSONNEL ARE SUFFERING IN NEW YORK.
THUS, VLADIMIR ULKIN (PHONETIC), INTOURIST'S NUMBER TWO MAN IN

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NEW YORK HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO RENEW HIS VISA TO DATE DESPITE ITS EXPIRATION ON DECEMBER 1. WE SUSPECT THE PROBLEM LIES CHIEFLY WITH INS BUT DON'T KNOW WHETHER THE VISA OFFICE IS ALSO INVOLVED. OUR SUGGESTION TO AMERICAN EXPRESS WAS THAT IT SEEK SOV ASSISTANCE. ARE YOU IN A POSITION TO HELP?

4. WE INVITED JONAS KUDIRKA FOR AN INTERVIEW ON HIS CITIZENSHIP CASE DECEMBER 29, BUT HE TELEPHONED THE 28TH TO SAY THAT HE COULD NOT GET TICKETS IN THE NEW YEAR HOLIDAY RUSH. HE TOLD US THAT HE WILL BE COMING IN SOMETIME AROUND JANUARY 10.

5. WE WILL BE REPORTING IN THE OPEN CHANNEL THAT EGON MEHLBERG RECEIVED HIS IV TODAY. WE GAVE HIM THE VYZOVS FOR HIS BROTHERS WHICH WERE SENT TO US. HE TOLD US THAT THEO DESIRES TO EMIGRATE AND WILL USE THE INVITATION. ACCORDING TO EGON, NEITHER HE NOR THEO HAS SEEN OR HEARD FROM THE THIRD BROTHER, EDWIN, SINCE LAST YEAR, BUT WE PASSED ON THE VYZOV FOR EDWIN ANYWAY.

6. WE TALKED WITH ALEKSEEYVA DECEMBER 29TH AND TOLD HER THAT THE PLAN NOW IS TO SEND HER THROUGH ROME, ALTHOUGH WE COULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT HER CASE WILL BE PROCESSED. SHE TOLD US SHE KNOWS VERY LITTLE OF GROSSMAN'S BACKGROUND, AND WE COULD NOT, OF COURSE, GIVE HER ANY DETAILS.

7. YOUR ADVICE CONTAINED PARA 1, STATE 312163 APPEARS TO INDICATE THAT WE SHOULD LAY THE ENTIRE PROBLEM OUT IN A FRONT CHANNEL TCP REQUEST CABLE WHICH CONCLUDES THAT HER CASE SHOULD BE ACCEPTED BECAUS
E
SHE CONTRACTED MARRIAGE IN GOOD FAITH AND IS NOT TO BLAME FOR GROSSMAN'S BACKGROUND. WHILE THIS WOULD BE MOST STRAIGHTFORWARD
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LANGUAGE, WE ARE AFRAID THAT INS ROME WILL INSTRUCT US NOT TO SEND HER OUT AT ALL PENDING A FINAL DECISION ON GROSSMAN'S PETITION APPLICATION. IF HE IS FINALLY REFUSED, SHE COULD BE COMPLETELY STRANDED HERE.

8. THE ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO SEND OUT A TCP CABLE WITHOUT INCLUDING THE BACKGROUND OF CASE AND DROPPING THE NORMAL INFO SECSTATE ADDRESS SO THAT IT WILL NOT SOMEHOW REACH INS CO. ON BASIS OF THIS CABLE ALEKSEEYVA MIGHT BE ACCEPTED FOR TCP BY GENEVA AND ROME WITHOUT REFERENCE TO PETITION PROBLEMS. THEN, IF INS ROME ULTIMATELY REFUSES TO PROCESS CASE, AT LEAST SHE WOULD BE IN ROME AND NOT USSR. WHILE THIS MIGHT BE BEST FOR HER, IT WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY INCREASE INS DISSATISFACTION WITH US, IF IT IS NOT ALREADY AT MAXIMUM. NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE NOW INCLINED TO FOLLOW THIS PROCEDURE BUT WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR ADVICE AND GUIDANCE IN ADVANCE.

9. WE'VE ASKED AZAROV OF MFA/CULT TO ASCERTAIN WHEN WE COULD

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EXPECT THE DELEGATION OF PARTY FIRST SECRETARIES TO TRAVEL
TO THE U.S. AFTER SOME INQUIRING AROUND, HE COULD ONLY SAY
THAT HE HAD "HEARD" THAT THE DEPARTMENT HAD BEEN INFORMED
SOME TIME AGO - HE ASSUMES BY DOBRYNIN HIMSELF -- THAT THE
VISIT SHOULD BE DEFERRED TO "A LATER DATE." HAVE YOU OR
CU/EE HAD ANY CONTACT WITH THE SOVIET EMBASSY ON THIS SUBJECT?

10. RE LOSEV VISA APPLICATION (STATE 311839, PARA 4), YOU
BEAT US TO THE PUNCH SINCE WE HAD BEEN JUST ABOUT TO
RECOMMEND THE ACTION YOU ARE PLANNING. YOUR SUMMARY OF
THE FACTS IN OBOLENSKY'S VISA CASE JIBES WITH OUR DATA
AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING YOUR INSTRUCTION TO
DELAY ISSUANCE TO LOSEV ACCORDINGLY.

11. THAT STILL LEAVES US WITH ONE CORRESPONDENT RETALIATION
TO GO FOR HOPKINS' MOST RECENT VISA TRAVAILS. YOU MAY
RECALL THAT AFTER HIS CURTAILED STAY (THREE DAYS) IN
OCTOBER, HE APPLIED AT SOVIET EMBASSY BONN ON OCTOBER 29
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FOR ANOTHER VISIT TO USSR FOR THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 7-27.
THE SOVIET SIDE TOOK NO ACTION AND HE REAPPLIED ON
NOVEMBER 22 FOR STAY HERE NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 13.
VISA WAS FINALLY ISSUED TO HIM DECEMBER 1 (DATED NOV 26),
VALID UNTIL DECEMBER 27. WE'LL FLAG THE NEXT APPROPRIATE
CANDIDATE FOR RETALIATION.
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